

1714

FORTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MERCANTILE LIBRARY COMPANY

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

JANUARY, 1863.

WM. S. YOUNG, STEAM-POWER BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.

REAR OF 52 NORTH SIXTH STREET.

1863.



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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
OF THE
MERCANTILE LIBRARY COMPANY.
1863.

PRESIDENT,
T. MORRIS PEROT.

VICE-PRESIDENT,
JOHN D. WATSON.

RECORDING SECRETARY,
JOHN LARDNER, JR.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
JOHN MARSTON, JR.

TREASURER,
ALBERT S. LETCHWORTH.

DIRECTORS:

Joseph C. Grubb,	Edward Parrish,
Charles Rhoads,	C. N. Weygandt,
Oliver H. Wilson,	Claudius B. Linn,
Richard Wood,	J. A. McAllister,
J. Wistar Evans,	Hugh D. Vail,
Wm. L. Dunghison,	Joseph Wilson.

LIBRARIAN,
JOHN EDMANDS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Philadelphia, January 20th, 1863.

AT the annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Mercantile Library Company, called according to the provisions of Section 8 of the Charter, and duly held, Mr. Oliver Evans was called to the chair, and John Lardner, Jr., appointed Secretary.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

The Annual Reports of the Board of Managers, of the Treasurer, and of the Librarian, were read and accepted.

On motion of Mr. Charles A. Duy they were referred to the Board of Managers, and ordered to be printed.

Nominations were then made of officers for the ensuing year.

The following gentlemen were appointed to act in conjunction with the Recording Secretary as tellers of the election, to be held on Tuesday, the 17th of February, viz.:—

Charles A. Duy,	Josiah W. Leeds,
John Gummere,	Robert Shippen.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. James G. Barnwell, was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of twenty-five stockholders be appointed to consider the condition and prospects of the Library, and to present to the Corporation such measures as may in their judg-

ment best conduce to its financial prosperity. Said committee to report at a special meeting to be called by them.

On motion, it was decided that the chair appoint the committee. The following members were appointed as the committee.

Asa I. Fish,	Simeon Dillingham,
Samuel Jeanes,	James Traquair,
Amos Briggs,	R. B. Brinton,
William S. Peirce,	Benj. H. Shoemaker,
William L. Maddock,	A. M. Burton,
James G. Barnwell,	Horace B. Heilman,
Hugh D. Vail,	J. A. M'Allister,
George Rhoads,	George Truman, Jr.,
George V. Cresson,	T. Russell Dawson,
Isaac Myer, Jr.,	Chas. P. Perot,
Thomas A. Wright,	George S. Fox,
William Evans, Jr.,	Wm. S. Abbott,
	Clifton Bolton.

Adjourned.

JOHN LARDNER, JR.,

Recording Secretary.

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
MERCANTILE LIBRARY COMPANY
OF PHILADELPHIA,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 1862.

During the past year, the prosperity which has attended the affairs of this institution so long and so uninterruptedly, has been again continued. Our very large list of stockholders and subscribers has suffered no such diminution as would have been expected from the events of the era. Our reading rooms are more frequented than they were wont to be, and the books, tables, files, and other advantages of the Library, are more and more in use. This must continue to be the case in succeeding years, as the Library has now acquired an enviable popularity in the community.

For several years past, the Board has directed its attention to the improvement of such departments of the Library as have been found to be most deficient. In this manner the departments of Fine Arts and Medicine have received large additions, so that

they are now far superior to what they were. In the former, the board has placed a selection of bound music books, including the works of the great composers, and it is intended to enlarge this gradually, so as eventually to establish in this institution a thoroughly good musical collection for the use of members.—This has been done in the Public Library of Boston, and the Board believes that if properly attended to, such a collection may be made one of the most attractive features in our rooms, and procure many stockholders. The Board is the more induced to this step, because it is not aware of the existence in this city of any extended collection of music to which the general public has access, a deficiency of some consequence in a city of the size of ours.

In former years the Library has received such large additions in the departments of travels, religion, biography, history and novels that most of the others have suffered in comparison. Natural History, which in the Academy of Natural Sciences fills a library of some twenty-five thousand volumes, exclusively devoted to it, comprises less than two thousand in ours. Law, which in the Law Library covers seven thousand volumes, can claim but two cases with us, and those indifferently supplied. Foreign Languages, which in the German Society's Library, cover ten thousand volumes, fill in ours three cases only. There is not in all Philadelphia a good collection of scientific books, and ours, we are sorry to say, is hardly worth mentioning, despite the persistent efforts of the Board to increase our supply in that department. Nor have we any commercial collection worthy of the name.

In the judgment of the Board this ought not to be, and notwithstanding the labor of remedying the deficiency, an effort has been made to better the condition of the Library in every class of books. This is a work which requires time and severe labor to carry to perfection, together with a sufficient supply of money, which the Board has no reason to doubt, can be obtained from the public-spirited citizens of Philadelphia for so praiseworthy an object. By assiduous care and attention our Library has become exceedingly

various and well selected; indeed, considering the number of volumes embraced in our collection, it is remarkable for its variety and value. In seeking, as has been done for several years past, to give a greater breadth to its literary character, the Board has been pleased to find the public taste has thoroughly responded to the effort, and that all the additions which have been made to the hitherto restricted departments, have brought forward persons to read and use them. At the time of making some of these additions it was a grave question, whether the popular character of the Library would warrant them, and whether those who wish books of a higher grade, would not look elsewhere for them, leaving ours neglected. But this is no longer a question, and we are satisfied that the true policy is to make this Library as complete in all its departments as we can obtain money to effect that object.

In doing this, we shall have to import from Europe to a much greater extent than ever before, as many of the works needed are foreign, and can be obtained cheapest in this way. This we have been doing for several years past, preferring to send out special orders for select lists of books, and thus be able to govern our purchases to suit the policy of the Board. We have selected diligently among the domestic book-sellers and shall still continue to do so, having been able, in this way, to obtain large additions during the year. For a portion of the past year, our importations of foreign books were impeded by the great rise in sterling exchange, and after waiting for a change in this, the Board at length concluded a special arrangement with our London agent on favorable terms. In the meantime, the labors of our foreign book committee have selected a large list of books which will be ordered.

The Board has entered upon this rather extensive programme, because it was the only great improvement within their reach, the erection of a larger hall not being practicable without the adoption of measures by the stockholders themselves, of a character likely to ensure the raising of a large fund for the purpose.—That we stand very much in need of such a building hardly admits of ar-

gument. The Board has felt it continually, and the increase in the number of visitors to our rooms has become so great as to force the matter upon the attention of everybody. We can manage to find room in the present hall for all the books we are likely to buy for the next few years, but we doubt our ability to accommodate the public. In order to satisfy the demands of the present stockholders and subscribers, the novel department, for instance, must be enlarged to three or four times its present capacity. Much attention as we devote to this class we find it impossible to keep pace with the demands upon us. We are aware that the liberality of our citizens has been severely tested of late years by many public enterprises, yet we would fain believe that it has not been exhausted, and that it is possible both to double our stock of books and build a new hall. We can, however, at present only submit the matter to the consideration of the company.

T. MORRIS PEROT, *President.*

JOHN LARDNER, JR., *Secretary.*

Phila. Jan. 20th, 1863.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT FOR 1862.

To the Managers of the Mercantile Library Company of Philadelphia:

GENTLEMEN:—I ask leave to present the following report on the condition and increase of the Library during the year just closed.

Notwithstanding the very general derangement of business and the agitation of the public mind by matters of vital national interest, there has been a positive increase in the number of our members, quite sufficient to show the wisdom of the plan on which our Institution is organized, in distinction from those which depend on annual subscribers.

The accessions to the membership of the Company have been as follows:—

Original Shares, at \$10,	-	-	-	48	
Conversion of Scrip,	-	-	-	23	
By vote of Board,	-	-	-	1	
				<hr/>	72
Less Shares Forfeited,	-	-	-	17	
Life Member deceased,	-	-	-	1	
				<hr/>	18
					<hr/>
Net Gain,	-	-	-		54
No. of Shareholders, December 31, 1861,					2216
					<hr/>
Present No.	-	-	-		2270
No. of Subscribers, December 31, 1861,				473	
Received in 1862,	-	-	-	131	
				<hr/>	
				604	
Withdrawn in 1862,	-	-	-	160	
				<hr/>	444
					<hr/>
No. entitled to use the Library,	-	-	-		2714

One hundred and forty-three (143) shares have been transferred during the year.

A circular has been sent to all the holders of the Building Scrip of the Company, setting forth the improved condition of the Library, and requesting that so far as convenient this scrip might be converted into active stock. A partial response has been made to this call, and it is hoped that during the current year the greater part of the scrip will be made productive.

The number of certificates at present outstanding is two hundred.

The additions to the Library are in excess of those made in 1861, numbering thirteen hundred and fifty-one (1351) volumes.

By Donation,	-	-	-	74	volumes.
Binding Periodicals,	-	-	-	107	"
Purchase,	-	-	-	1170	"
				<hr/>	
				1351	"

These were distributed into the classes mentioned in previous reports as follows:

Sciences, Arts and Law,	-	-	-	356	volumes.
Belles Lettres,	-	-	-	264	"
Prose Fiction,	-	-	-	354	"
History,	-	-	-	87	"
Voyages and Travels,	-	-	-	100	"
Biography,	-	-	-	75	"
Religion,	-	-	-	55	"
Miscellaneous,	-	-	-	60	"
				<hr/>	
				1351	"

The cost of the books purchased is sixteen hundred and thirty-four dollars (\$1633.99,) an average of one dollar and forty cents per volume, which is a little less than for last year.

Our list of periodicals has been enriched during the year by the following additions.

Continental Monthly,	Christian Examiner,
Danville Review,	The Exchange,
Gardeners' Monthly,	Natural History Review,
New Englander,	Popular Science Review,
Practical Meehanic's Journal,	Chambers' Book of Days,
London Daily News,	La Cronica,
La Messager Franco-Americain,	Legal Intelligeneer,
Sunday School World,	Banner of the Covenant,
Cosmos,	Little Pilgrim.

A revised list of the periodicals now received at our rooms, including some whose receipt is temporarily suspended, is appended to this report.

With the view of disposing of some of the duplicate books which had been procured to meet the growing demand for new and popular works, but which are no longer required for circulation, and of others which had accumulated in the ordinary course of accessions to the Library, a case has been set apart for the reception of books withdrawn from circulation, and the volumes placed in it have been marked with the price at which they are offered. It is, perhaps, needless to observe here that it is proposed to sell *no books* of which we have not two or more copies.

There have been sold from this case two hundred and thirty-five (235) volumes, realizing the sum of sixty-three (\$62.95) dollars, being an average of $26\frac{3}{4}$ cents per. vol.

This feature of our Library is commended to the careful consideration of the members, as affording an opportunity of obtaining valuable books at a low rate, and at the same time of contributing something to the means of still further enriching the collection.

The present number of volumes in the Library is twenty-three thousand eight hundred, (23,816.)

A list of the books presented to the Library during the year is appended to this report. The special thanks of the members are due to Mr. Enoch R. Hutchinson, for his gift to the Institution of a series of fourteen volumes of the New York Daily *Tribune* for the years 1856, 1857, 1858, and 1859, neatly and substantially bound.

In pursuance of a resolution passed by the Stockholders, public notice was given that the Library would undertake the distribution among the soldiers at the Army Hospitals in the city, of such books and other reading matter as might be sent here. Numerous individuals have responded to this call, and several thousand articles have been received. These have been delivered to the Hospitals named below, in the proportion stated.

Broad and Cherry Streets,	-	-	1200	articles.
Fifth and Buttonwood Streets,	-	-	540	"
Twenty-third and Wood Streets,	-	-	460	"
Twenty-fifth and South Streets,	-	-	400	"
Ninth and Christian Streets,	-	-	200	"
West Philadelphia,	-	-	2600	"
Sixteenth and Filbert Streets,	-	-	600	"
Summit Hospital,	-	-	500	"
			<hr/>	
			6500	"

The number of volumes bound during the year is nine hundred and sixty-seven (967,) at a cost of nearly five hundred dollars (\$498 85,) an average of $51\frac{1}{2}$ cents per volume.

There have been loaned from the Library, for home perusal, about seventy thousand (68,862) volumes.

It should be observed, however, that this is by no means a true measure of the extent to which our books are used, as it makes no account of the reading at the Library of Books and unbound Reviews and Magazines; nor of the constant use of the books in the way of reference and consultation. On this subject it is impossible to give any precise statements, or any useful estimates even.

There can be no reasonable doubt, however, that in this unrecorded, and by many unappreciated use of the books is to be found one of the largest and most enduring benefits of the Library; and as the collection of Reviews and Magazines, and of standard books becomes more rich and varied in character, and more widely known each year, its influence will be more extensively felt.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN EDMANDS, *Librarian.*

APPENDIX.

DONATIONS TO THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA, IN 1862.

A.

L. ASHMEAD.—Preliminary Report of 8th Census, 1 vol.

A. D. BACHE.—Report of Superintendent of the Coast Survey for 1856 and 1860, 2 vols.

Hon. C. J. BIDDLE.—Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1 vol.

“ Mordecai's Art of War in Europe, 1 vol.

“ Message of the President to Congress, with the Documents, 3 vols.

“ Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the Finances, 1 vol.

“ do on Commerce and Navigation, 1 vol.

“ Preliminary Report on 8th Census, 1 vol.

H. P. M. BIRKINBINE.—Annual Report of the Chief Engineer of the Water Department of Phila., 1 vol.

W. G. P. BRINKLOE.—Gardener's Monthly for 1862.

W. J. BUCK.—History of Montgomery Co., 1 vol.

H. C. CAREY.—Recueil de Décrets, Ordonnances, Traités de Paix, etc., de N. Bonaparte, 4 vols.

“ Cornelli Van Eek Theses Juris Controversi, 1 vol.

“ A. Schultingii Theses Controversæ, 1 vol.

“ 225 Miscellaneous Pamphlets.

W. T. COGGESHALL.—Ohio Statistics for 1861, 1 vol.

WM. L. DUNGLISON.—Harris' Prison Life at Richmond, 1 vol.

- Hon. J. W. FORNEY.—Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the Finances, 1 vol.
- THOS. GREENBANK.—Journal of the Revenue Commissioners, 1 vol.
- “ Report on Common Schools of Penna., 1 vol.
- “ Report of Railroad Companies, 1 vol.
- “ Report of Banks of Penna.
- ENOCH R. HUTCHINSON.—N. Y. Tribune, 14 vols.
- WM. JENNISON.—Crummell's Future of Africa, 1 vol.
- Hon. W. D. KELLEY.—Report on the Finances of the U. S., 1 vol.
- “ Report on Commerce and Navigation, 1 vol.
- “ President's Message and Reports, 1 vol.
- “ Condition of Mexico, 1 vol.
- “ Report on Fortifications and Sea Coast Defences.
- THOS. KIMBER, JR.—Railroad Map of the Southern States.
- Hon. W. E. LEHMAN.—Delafield's Art of War, 1 vol.
- “ Preliminary Report on 8th Census, 1 vol.
- “ Reports on Military and Naval Defences, 1 vol.
- Dr. WM. MORRIS.—Question of Ages, 1 vol.
- NEW YORK.—Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report for 1861.
- “ Sabbath Committee: Sabbath Reform, 1 vol.
- “ Regents of University; Catalogue of the State Library, 1st Sup., 1 vol.
- “ Index to Colonial History, 1 vol.
- J. W. NYSTROM.—Tonal System of Arithmetic, 1 vol.
- PHILADELPHIA.—Board of Trade. Annual Report, 1 vol.
- “ Pamphlets on Finance and Taxing.
- “ Journals of Councils, 5 vols.
- HENRY PHILLIPS.—Sketch of Paper Money in Penna.
- WM. ROBERTS.—School History of the U. S.
- SIMON STERN.—Message of President to Congress, in 1792, 1 vol.
- HENRY STEVENS.—Willis and Southern's Catalogue of Books, 1 vol.
- D. M. SWARR.—Howard's Encyclopædia, 3 vols.
- UNITED STATES.—Department of the Interior. President's Message with Documents and Maps, 4 vols.
- “ State Department: Correspondence on Foreign Affairs, 1 vol.
- “ Condition of Mexico, 1 vol.
- Hon. D. WILMOT.—Ives's Survey of the Colorado River.

B.

LIST OF PERIODICALS RECEIVED AT THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY ROOMS, JAN. 1, 1863.

NEWSPAPERS.**PENNSYLVANIA:—**

Philadelphia Inquirer, two copies.
 North American & U. S. Gazette,
 two copies.
 Evening Bulletin, four copies.
 Evening Journal.
 The Press, two copies.
 Public Ledger.
 Daily News.
 Philadelphia Democrat.
 Sunday Dispatch.
 Sunday Transcript.
 Banner of the Covenant.
 Germantown Telegraph.
 Westchester Jeffersonian.
 Westchester Village Record.
 Bucks Co. Intelligencer.
 Harrisburgh Patriot and Union.
 Harrisburgh Telegraph.
 Pittsburgh Gazette.
 Pittsburgh Post.
 Lancaster Examiner and Herald.
 Reading Gazette and Democrat.
 Erie Weekly Gazette.
 Lehigh Register, Allentown.
 Miner's Journal, Pottsville.

MAINE:—

Eastern Argus, Portland.

NEW HAMPSHIRE:—

Manchester Democrat & American.

VERMONT:

St. Alban's Messenger.

MASSACHUSETTS:

Boston Daily Journal.
 " Post.
 " Evening Traveller.
 " Commercial Bulletin.
 New Bedford Mercury.
 Springfield Republican.

RHODE ISLAND:

Providence Journal.

CONNECTICUT:

Hartford Daily Courant.

NEW YORK:

New York Herald, two copies.
 " Times, two copies.
 " Tribune, two copies.
 " Evening Post.
 " Journal of Commerce.
 " World.
 " Courier des Etats Unis.
 " Albion.
 " La Crónica.
 " Le Messager Franco-
 Americain.
 " Anti-Slavery Standard.
 " Wilkes' Spirit of the
 Times.
 Albany Evening Journal.
 " Atlas and Argus.
 Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.

NEW JERSEY:

Newark Daily Advertiser.
 Trenton State Gazette.
 Mt. Holly Mirror.
 Salem Standard.

DELAWARE:

State Journal and Statesman.

MARYLAND:

Baltimore American.
 " Sun.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

National Intelligencer.
 Congressional Globe.

VIRGINIA:

Wheeling Intelligencer.
 Richmond Inquirer.
 " Whig.
 Norfolk Herald.

NORTH CAROLINA:

Wilmington Journal.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

Charleston Courier.
 " Mercury.

GEORGIA:

Augusta Chronicle.
 Savannah Republican.

FLORIDA:

Key of the Gulf.

ALABAMA:

Mobile Advertiser.

MISSISSIPPI:

Vicksburg Whig.

LOUISIANA:

New Orleans Picayune.
 " Delta.

TEXAS:

Galveston News.

ARKANSAS:

State Gazette.

TENNESSEE:

Nashville Daily Union.
 Knoxville Whig.
 Nashville Banner.

KENTUCKY:

Louisville Daily Journal.
 " " Democrat.
 Maysville Eagle.

OHIO:

Cincinnati Enquirer.
 " Commercial.
 " Gazette.
 Cleveland Herald.
 Ohio State Journal.

MICHIGAN:

Detroit Advertiser and Tribune.

INDIANA:

Indianapolis Daily Journal.

ILLINOIS:

Chicago Daily Tribune.
 " " Times.
 Illinois State Journal.

WISCONSIN:

Milwaukee Daily Sentinel.

MINNESOTA:

St. Paul Pioneer.

IOWA:

Dubuque Daily Times.

MISSOURI:

St. Louis Missouri Democrat.
 " " Republican.
 Lexington Express.

KANSAS:

Leavenworth Daily Times.

CALIFORNIA:

Daily Alta California.

NEBRASKA:

Omaha Nebraskian.

CANADA:

Toronto Leader.

GREAT BRITAIN:

London Daily Times.
 " " News.
 " American.
 Manchester Weekly Times.
 Wilmer & Smith's European Times.
 Edinburgh Scotsman.
 Dublin Nation.

FRANCE:

La Patrie.

GERMANY:

Allgemeine Zeitung. Augsburg.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC PAPERS.

American Agriculturist.	Legal and Insurance Reporter.
“ Publisher's Circular.	L'Illustration.
Athenæum.	Little Pilgrim.
Boston Musical Times.	New York Ledger.
Dwight's Journal of Music.	N. Y. Shipping and Commercial List.
Economist.	Philadelphia Commercial List.
Engineer. Examiner.	Publisher's Circular.
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper	Punch.
Harper's Weekly.	Saturday Evening Post.
Home Journal.	Saturday Review.
Home and Foreign Record.	Scientific American.
Illustrated London News.	Spectator.
Journal of Am. Temperance Union.	U. S. Railroad and Mining Register.
Legal Intelligencer.	Vanity Fair.

REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

AMERICAN.		FOREIGN.
American Journal of Education.		Sealpel.
“ “ Medical Sciences.		University Quarterly.
“ “ Science and Arts.		
Atlantic Monthly.		All the Year Round.
Banker's Magazine.		Art Journal.
Christian Examiner.		Blackwood's Magazine.
Continental Monthly.		Book of Days.
Crayon.		British Quarterly Review.
Danville Review.		Builder.
DeBow's Review.		Chambers' Journal.
Dental Cosmos.		Cornhill Magazine.
Gardener's Monthly.		Cosmos.
Hall's Journal of Health.		Dublin Review.
Eclectic Magazine.		Dublin University Magazine.
Harper's New Monthly Magazine.		Edinburgh Review.
Historical Magazine.		English Woman's Journal.
Home Magazine.		Exchange.
Horticulturist.		Fraser's Magazine.
Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences.		Gentleman's Magazine.
Journal of the Franklin Institute.		Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society.
Knickerbocker Magazine.		Leisure Hour.
Godey's Lady's Book.		Macmillan's Magazine.
Littell's Living Age.		National Review.
Medical News.		Natural History Review.
Medical and Surgical Reporter.		North British Review.
Merchant's Magazine.		Notes and Queries.
Mining Magazine.		Once-a-Week.
National Quarterly Review.		Popular Science Review.
New Englander.		Practical Mechanic's Journal.
North American Review.		Publisher's Circular.
Peterson's Magazine.		Revue des Deux Mondes.
Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences.		Quarterly Review.
		Sunday at Home.
		Temple Bar.
		Westminster Review.

